

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CARACA 10607 101427Z

61

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

PC-01 /063 W

----- 066259

R 101354Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 479

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 10607

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR VE

SUBJECT: NEW FOREIGN MINISTRY DIRECTOR GENERAL

REF: CARACAS 8462

1. ON SEPTEMBER 30 DR. JORGE GOMEZ MANTELLINI ASSUMED THE POSITION OF DIRECTOR GENERAL (THE NO. 2 OFFICIAL, EQUIVALENT TO VICE MINISTER) OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS. DR. GOMEZ, IN HIS MIDDLE FORTIES AND A NEWCOMER TO DIPLOMACY, HAS BEEN SERVING SINCE 1974 AS SECRETARY GENERAL OF GOVERNMENT OF THE FEDERAL DISTRICT (CARACAS). FROM 1971 TO 1974 DR. GOMEZ WAS DEAN OF THE FACULTY OF ECONOMICS OF THE CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF VENEZUELA (UCV). HE HAS TAUGHT AT UCV SINCE 1958, AND HOLDS THE RANK OF ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR.

2. DR. GOMEZ HAS A LAW DEGREE FROM THE UCV AND IS ALSO A PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT. HE HA PUBLISHED A TEXTBOOK ENTITLED "LAW AND FISCAL LEGISLATION" AND A NUMBER OF ARTICLES OF A JURIDICO-FISCAL NATURE. HIS PRIMARY REPUTATION IS THAT OF AN ECONOMIST.

3. GOMEZ POSSESSES AN OPEN, EASY, AND FRIENDLY PERSONALITY. HE HAS A SOCIABLE NATURE AND LIKES JOKES. ACCORDING TO A FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCE WHO HAS KNOWN GOMEZ BEFORE, HE IS HARDWORKING AND CAPABLE.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 CARACA 10607 101427Z

4. GOMEZ SUCCEEDS JOHN RAPHAEL, WHO DID NOT GET ALONG WITH

FOREIGN MINISTER RAMON ESCOVAR SALOM AND RESIGNED IN MID-AUGUST (REFTEL. IT IS CUSTOMARY FOR THE NO. 2 MAN IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY TO BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE POLITICAL PARTY IN POWER AS WELL AS TO THE PRESIDENT, AND THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT GOMEZ IS BOTH, BUT IT IS UNCLEAR WHETHER GOMEZ IS A LONGTIME MILITANT ADECO OR RATHER AN ACTIVE SYMPATHIZER. GOMEZ HITHERTO HAS BEEN UNKNOWN TO THE PUBLIC AT LARGE, AND HIS APPOINTMENT CAME AS SOMETHING OF A SURPRISE. ASKED BY EMBOFFS WHAT FOREIGN AFFAIRS CREDENTIALS GOMEZ BRINGS TO HIS NEW JOB, A SENIOR VENEZUELAN INTERNATIONALIST REPLIED, "NONE". TRADITIONALLY THE NO. 2 MAN IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS KEPT AN EYE ON THE FOREIGN MINISTER ON BEHALF OF THE PARTY IN POWER, BUT IT MAY WELL BE THAT GOMEZ, AS AN ECONOMIST, WAS BROUGHT INTO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY PRIMARILY TO SUPPLY SOME BADLY NEEDED EXPERTISE IN ECONOMIES. IT IS STILL TOO EARLY TO JUDGE WHAT GOMEZ'S PRINCIPAL ROLE WILL BE.

5. WE WILL FURNISH FURTHER BIO DATA ON GOMEZ AS THEY BECOME AVAILABLE.
SHLAUDEMANN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION, PERSONNEL ASSIGNMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975CARACA10607
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750353-0470
From: CARACAS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751063/aaaacdpb.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 CARACAS 8462
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 SEP 2003 by RowellE0>; APPROVED <09 OCT 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NEW FOREIGN MINISTRY DIRECTOR GENERAL
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, VE, (GOMEZ MANTELLINI, JORGE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006